



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/687,231 Confirmation No.  
Applicant : James T. Beals et al.  
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Examiner :

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Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the initial office action in the above-captioned newly filed patent application, please amend said application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.